

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Office of the House Republican Leader  
H-204 United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Republican Leader Boehner:

As Members of the House of Representatives, we appeal to you on behalf of American workers. Nationwide, 7.6 percent of the labor force—11.6 million workers—is unemployed, and millions more are involuntarily working part-time or have given up hope of finding a job. Estimates of the number of jobs that might be created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Recovery Act) vary widely. While no one can predict exactly how many jobs will be created, we believe that the American people deserve to know that their tax dollars are being used to create jobs for **legal** workers.

While the House version of the Recovery Act included two E-Verify-related measures to ensure American jobs would be protected, the Senate failed to include similar language. Because of the Senate's oversight, we, the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives, urge you to protect taxpayers and **legal** workers by including these critical jobs protection provisions in any future economic recovery legislation. The House version of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, H.R. 1105, included a short-term extension of the E-Verify program through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2009). While a short-term extension is a step in the right direction, it is difficult for business to plan and effectively utilize the program without its secure future.

According to recent analysis, as many as 300,000 illegal aliens could receive jobs funded by the recovery program because these provisions were not included in the final version of the Recovery Act. If these provisions do not become law, not only will the important E-Verify program be in danger of expiring on March 6, 2009, but it may mean that hundreds of thousands of potential jobs for American workers will be compromised.

The E-Verify program enjoys a success rate of 99.6%, meaning that 99.6% of those legal workers checked by the program are verified through E-Verify without receiving a tentative non-confirmation (TNC) or having to take any type of corrective action. Testifying in June, Rep. Heath Shuler said, "E-Verify is handling at least one in eight new hires already. Based on recent load testing, the system has the capacity to handle 240 million queries a year – that's four times the number of people in the United States who are usually hired in a given year." The E-Verify program is reliable, easy to use and, most importantly, expedient.

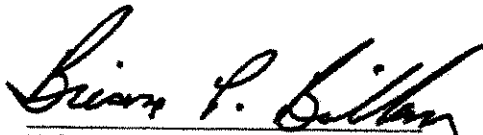
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 2


The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 2

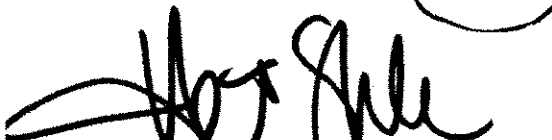
Employers who break the law by hiring illegal immigrants create unfair competition in the labor market and depress wages for all workers. The Center for Immigration Studies has found that the current level of immigration has reduced the wages of the average native-born worker in a low-skilled occupation by 12% a year, or almost \$2,000. Alexander Aleinikoff, a former Clinton Administration INS official, Dean of Georgetown Law School and co-chair of the Immigration Policy Review Team for the Presidential Transition of Barack Obama, calls it a "myth" that "there is little or no competition between undocumented workers and American workers . . . ."


According to estimates from the Pew Hispanic Center, roughly 7.7 million illegal immigrants are employed in the United States in 2008. These are all jobs that currently unemployed United States workers—both citizens and **legal** immigrants—could and should have a chance to fill. If the E-Verify program is not reauthorized, this Congress and our President will spend more than \$1 trillion of taxpayer money to possibly provide jobs for illegal workers. Please do everything within your power to protect **legal** workers by ensuring that the E-Verify program is reauthorized long-term in the Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

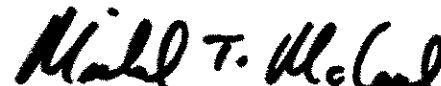
  
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Member of Congress


  
Dean Heller  
Member of Congress

  
Heath Shuler  
Member of Congress

  
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress


  
Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

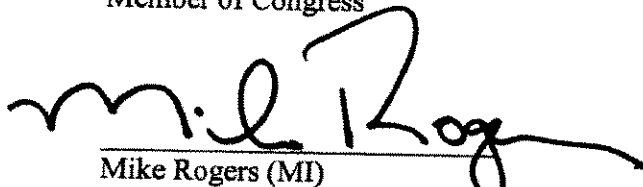
  
Michael T. McCaul  
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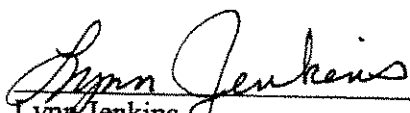
  
Lamar Smith  
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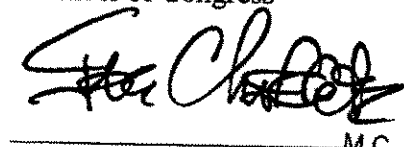
  
Trent Franks  
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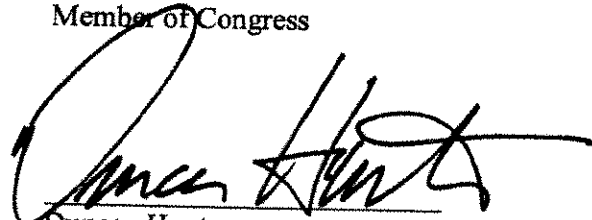
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 3

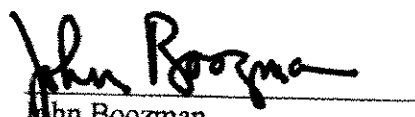
  
David Bonior  
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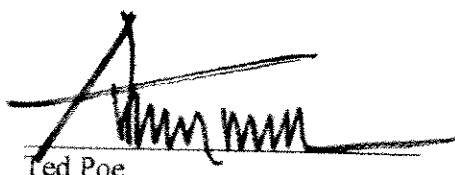
  
Mike Rogers (MI)  
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Lynn Jenkins  
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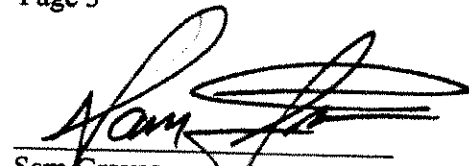
  
Jason Chaffetz  
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Duncan Hunter  
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John Boozman  
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Ted Poe  
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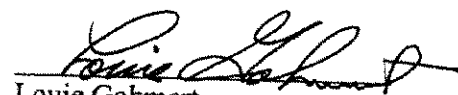
The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 3


  
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

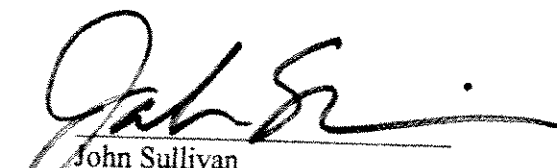
  
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
John Campbell  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
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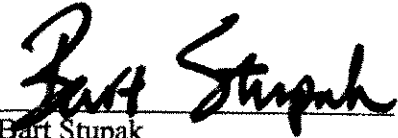
  
Marsha Blackburn  
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John Sullivan  
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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 4



Howard Coble  
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak  
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Bob Inglis  
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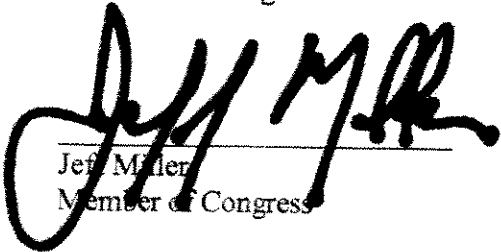
Joe Wilson  
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Phil Gingrey  
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Jeff Miller  
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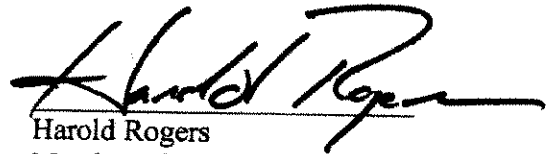
The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 4



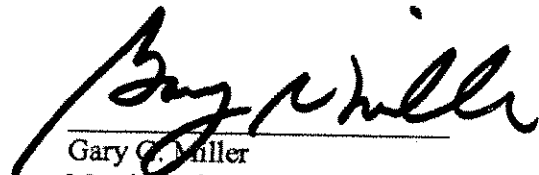
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress



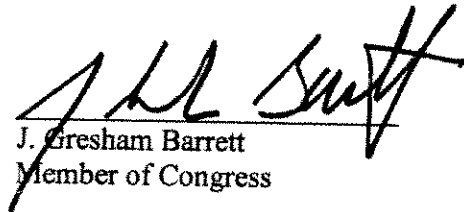
Bart Gordon  
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Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress



Gary C. Miller  
Member of Congress



J. Gresham Barrett  
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Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress





Ed Whitfield  
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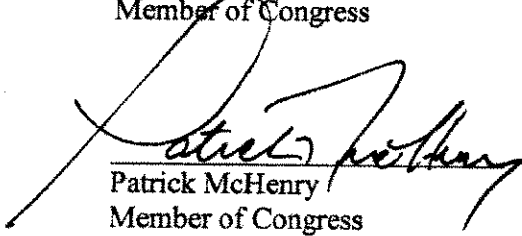
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 5


  
Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress


  
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Walt Minnick  
Member of Congress

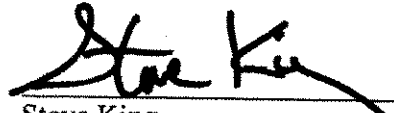
  
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

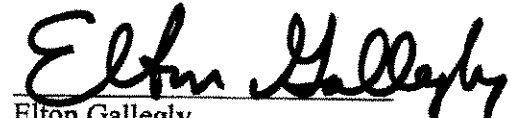
  
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Walter B. Jones  
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Ken Calvert  
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The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 5

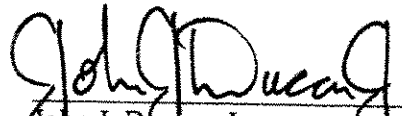
  
Steve King  
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Elton Gallegly  
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John Culberson  
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Doug Lamborn  
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W. Todd Akin  
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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 6




John R. Carter  
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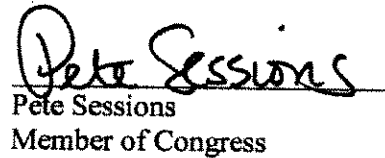
The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 6



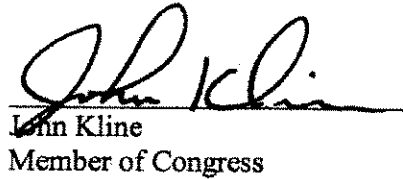
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



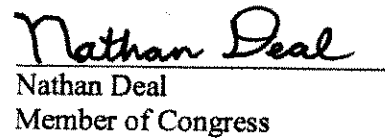
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Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



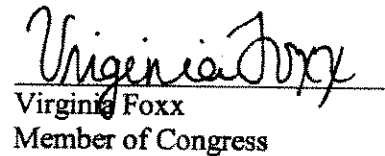
John Kline  
Member of Congress



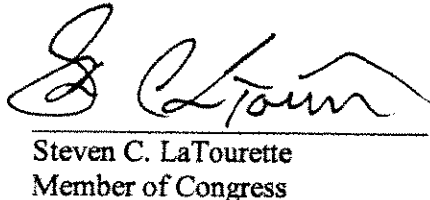
Nathan Deal  
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis  
Member of Congress



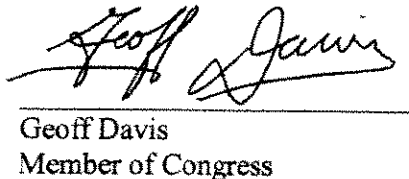
Virginia Foxx  
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Steven C. LaTourette  
Member of Congress



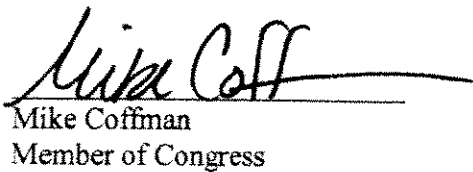
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress



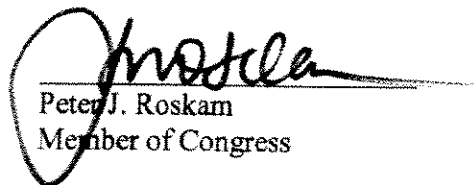
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Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress




Peter J. Roskam  
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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
March 5, 2009  
Page 7

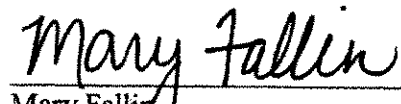
  
Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress

The Honorable John Boehner  
March 5, 2009  
Page 7

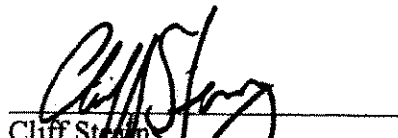
  
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Member of Congress

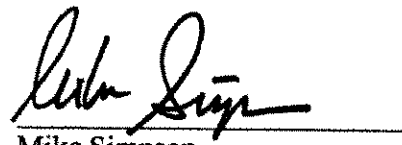
  
Lynn A. Westmoreland  
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Paul C. Broun  
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Mary Fallin  
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Denny Rehberg  
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Darrell Issa  
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